

Czechoslovak National Bibliography: A Historical Sketch

THE DESIGNATION "Father of Czech Bibliography" doubtless belongs to Josef Jungmann. His work, *Historie literatury české aneb soustavný přehled spisů českých s krátkou historií národu, osvícení a jazyka*,¹ was the first successful attempt to compile Czech-written production from the earliest period to 1825. It is not, as the title suggests, a history of literature in the sense of belles-lettres, but rather a list of manuscript and printed material on various subjects, divided into seven chronological sections based on historical events. Each section is preceded by a brief description of the general and literary history of the period. Except in the first two sections, which comprise the earliest writings up to 1310, the material is divided into seven to ten classes: linguistics, literature, history, geography, philosophy, law, religion, mathematics, natural science, and medicine. All together, the work lists 2,453 items and has two alphabetical indexes: one of Czech authors and one of foreign authors translated into Czech. In the Czech author index, each author is provided with a short biographical sketch.

This pioneer work saw a second edition in 1849, with coverage extended to 1846, listing 7,273 items. The material was collected and prepared for publication by Jungmann himself, but due to

¹ Translation: History of Czech literature, or a systematic survey of Czech writings, with a brief history of the people, culture and language. (All Czech titles in the remainder of the article are translated in footnote citations.)

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his death in 1847 the work was edited by V. V. Tomek. A title index, compiled by Tomek, was added in the second edition. For almost a century Jungmann's work was the basic bibliography for the period covered, and as such was often supplemented. Of these the most important is the work of I. L. Hanuš, published in two volumes (1869 and 1871) entitled *Dodatky a doplňky k Jungmannově Historii literatury české*.² A direct continuation of Jungmann's first edition is Josef Václav Justin Michl's *Auplný literaturnej létopis čili obraz slowesnosti Slowanův nářečj českého w Čechách, na Moravě, w Uhřjch atd., od léta 1825 až do léta 1837*,³ published in Prague in 1839. It contains 832 entries, arranged by subject. With the publication of Jungmann's second edition, much of the original value of Michl's work was lost; but because it lists some items not listed by Jungmann, it is not entirely superseded.

Most of the period covered by Jungmann, Hanuš, and Michl was, a hundred years later, covered more thoroughly by Zdenek Tobolka in his two-volume work *Knihopis českých a slovenských tisků od doby nejstarší až do konce XVIII století*.⁴ The first volume, on incunabula, was published in 1925; the second, covering the period from 1501 to 1800, appeared in 1939. Every entry has a detailed annotation, and there are reproductions of some title pages. The arrangement is

² Additions and supplements to Jungmann's history of Czech literature.

³ Complete annals of the literature of Slavs with Czech dialect in Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, etc., from 1825 to 1837.

⁴ Bibliography of Czech and Slovak publications from the earliest times to the end of the eighteenth century.

alphabetical by author, followed by a short biographical sketch. There are three indexes: a chronological index of works, an alphabetical title and author index, and a subject index.

In contrast to the previous centuries, the nineteenth century lacks a comprehensive bibliography which would give an adequate survey of its book production. Although numerous attempts were made, none of them lasted longer than a few years. This was due to the fact that most of the attempts were made by private individuals who lacked the financial support to continue. It is true that there were a number of bibliographies compiled by literary historians and booksellers, but the former limited their work to particular subjects, while the latter compiled bibliographies from those books which they had on hand, and thus none of them can be called comprehensive.

For the first half of the nineteenth century we can use the Jungmann bibliography, the second edition of which goes to 1846, as well as the work of J. J. Heinrich Czikan, *Die lebenden Schriftsteller Mährens* (Brno, 1812), arranged alphabetically by author and containing the major bibliographical information. The two works of Christian d'Elvert, *Historische Literatur-Geschichte von Mähren und Österreichisch-Schlesien*, published in Brno in 1850, and *Geschichte des Bücher- und Steindruckes, des Buchhandels, der Bücher-Censur und der periodischen Literatur, so wie Nachträge zur Geschichte der historischen Literatur in Mähren und Österreich Schlesien*, published in Brno in 1854, can be considered for continuation and supplement of the Jungmann and Czikan bibliographies. D'Elvert gives a chronological list of Moravian printers with brief descriptions of their publications.

From among the bookseller lists the most useful bibliographical work for the nineteenth century is the work of Jan

Václav Rozum, *Seznam českých knih, obrazů a hudebních výtvarů, které posud na skladě jsou*,⁵ which was compiled on the holdings of Jaroslav Pospíšil's bookstore in 1853. The work was published in 1854, and according to the author it is a "quite complete list of the Czech output in the early nineteenth century." It is arranged alphabetically by title, with author, translator, and publisher index, a systematic index of authors arranged by their subjects, and a list of booksellers in Bohemia, Moravia, and Vienna.

Another work which covers the first half of the nineteenth century, but which is important to us especially because of its coverage of the first decade of the second half, is František Doucha's *Knihopisný slovník česko-slovenský: Seznam knih, map, obrazů a hudebnin 1774 až 1864*,⁶ published in Prague in 1865. It is arranged alphabetically by author, with detailed bibliographical notes and data for collectors. In some places the author lists reviews in periodicals.

The first half of the 1870's is covered by *Věstník Bibliografický*,⁷ edited by F. A. Urbanek from 1870 to 1874 in Prague and published by I. L. Kober. This tool, a monthly, covers the period from 1869 to the first four months in 1874. In January of 1874 the editorship of the journal devolved upon Otakar Hostinský, but only four more numbers appeared. In January of 1875 publication was renewed under the editorship of Fr. A. Zeman and F. A. Urbanek, but it ceased publication altogether toward the end of 1876.

In 1877 the Association of Czechoslovak Bookseller Accountants⁸ under the editorship of A. Michalek, I. Klouček, and others, started the publication of *Slovanský katalog bibliografický*.⁹ This

⁵ List of Czech books, pictures, and musical works, which are still in stock.

⁶ Czechoslovak bibliographical dictionary: list of books, maps, pictures and music from 1774 to 1864.

⁷ Bibliographical messenger.

⁸ Spolek československých knihkupeckých účetníků.

⁹ Slavic bibliographical catalog.

annual included the Slavic countries of Bohemia, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Croatia, and Serbia. In spite of all the efforts to keep it going, it survived for only four years. Because of difficulties connected with the procurement of material, it ceased publication with the 1881 issue.

The years 1880-83 are covered by the indefatigable F. A. Urbanek, who in 1880 renewed his publication of 1870 under the title *Urbánkův Věstník Bibliografický*.¹⁰ This monthly listed the Czech and Slovak book and periodical publications in the fields of literature, music, and art. An important feature is the information about reviews of some of the more important books. Its great disadvantage is the lack of a cumulative index.

For the years 1884-88, there is no Czech national bibliographical tool except for F. A. Urbanek's publication of 1909 entitled *Biografický a bibliografický slovník českých spisovatelů*,¹¹ in two volumes. Volume one is subtitled *Básníci a beletristé 1800-1900*¹²; volume two, *Spisovatelé vědečtí 1800-1900*.¹³ Although the title suggests inclusion of all the works of poets, writers, and scientists of the nineteenth century, it is in reality a selective list of works from the nineteenth century, dependent upon Urbanek's judgment, and is far from complete.

The remaining years of the nineteenth century, from 1889, are covered quite adequately by a number of bibliographical tools. The most important of these is the *Český katalog bibliografický*,¹⁴ published by the above-mentioned Association of Czechoslovak Bookseller Accountants in Prague. This monthly covers the years 1889-1903, listing the book, pamphlet, periodical, and music output in Czecho-

slovakia as well as Czechoslovak literature published abroad, especially in the United States. From 1891 on, it includes an index to scientific articles in the major Czech periodicals. The years 1898 to 1903 (vols. X-XV) came out in 1906 in one cumulative volume, compiled by Vojtech Kudlata. The other bibliographies for this period were compiled by some publishing houses which began at this point the listing of Bohemian national book production. A comprehensive bibliography for the years 1897-1900 with a subject index, issued by Bačkovsky Publishing House under the editorship of B. Jindřich, is entitled *Abecední soupis všech knih všech nakladatelů českých vydaných za posledních tří let*.¹⁵ The years 1892-94 are covered by *Česká bibliografie*,¹⁶ edited by I. L. Kobra. For the years 1900-01, publications are listed in the *Český Věstník Bibliografický*¹⁷ of the Rívnač Publishing House.

As we have seen, the nineteenth century does not possess a comprehensive bibliography of Czech books, although various sectional bibliographies exist. In order to cover the book output of the years for which there are no Czech bibliographies, as well as of the years which have only superficial coverage, we must turn to the Austrian bibliographies of the nineteenth century, when the present Czechoslovak territory belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The first of this kind is the first Austrian national bibliography, *Allgemeine Bibliographie für das Kaisertum Österreich*, published in the periodical *Österreichische Blätter für Literatur und Kunst*, a supplement to the *Österreichisch-Kaiserliche Wiener Zeitung*, which began in 1853. It was compiled by the Library of the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, whose director was C. Wurzbach. It was issued weekly and contained German, Italian, Hungarian,

¹⁰ Urbanek's bibliographical messenger.

¹¹ Biographical and bibliographical dictionary of Czech writers.

¹² Poets and belletrists, 1800-1900.

¹³ Scientific authors, 1800-1900.

¹⁴ Czech bibliographical catalog.

¹⁵ Alphabetical index of all books of all Czech publishers published within the past three years.

¹⁶ Czech bibliography.

¹⁷ Czech bibliographical messenger.

Czech, Slovak, Polish, and Slovenian titles. It ceased publication in 1857. For 1859-60 we have the *Bibliographisches Central-Organ des Österreichisches Kaiserstaates*, also a publication of the Ministry of Domestic Affairs. This tool, a semi-weekly, is arranged systematically, listing only the important literary publications. It includes the same countries as the previous work. From 1860 on, there appears the *Österreichische Buchhändler-Correspondenz*, a publication of the Austrian Bookseller Association. At the beginning this tool was published three times a month, later becoming weekly. It listed German, Hungarian (to 1889), Czech, Italian, Polish, Croatian, Serbian, and Bulgarian publications. From 1861 to 1870, the yearly cumulation of this bibliography was published under the title *Österreichischer Katalog: Verzeichnis aller im Jahre 18 . . . in Österreich erschienenen Bücher, Zeitschriften, Kunst-sachen, Landkarten, und Musikalien*. In 1871 this yearly cumulation came out under the title *Alphabetisches Verzeichnis der Bücher, Kunstartikel und Musikalien, welche im Jahre 1871 in der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie erschienen sind*. However, in 1872 this title was changed to *Halbjähriges Inhalts-Verzeichnis, der in den Bibliographien der österreichischen Buchhändler Correspondenz aufgenommenen Neuheiten und Fortsetzungen*, and it appeared under this title as a semi-annual to 1882. From 1883 to 1888 its continuation was *Österreichischer Katalog: Verzeichnis aller vom Januar bis Juni (Juli bis December) 1883 . . . in Österreich erschienenen Bücher, Zeitschriften, Kunst-sachen, Landkarten und Musikalien*, also a semi-annual. It is divided into five sections, of which the second contains Slavic writings. The years 1881-94 are covered in *Gesamt-Verlag-Katalog des Deutschen Buchhandels und des mit ihm im direkten Verkehr stehenden Auslandes*, published by Russel in Münster in Westfalen. It is a

28-volume work consisting of sixteen parts. Volumes XII and XVI include Bohemia.

Bibliographical control in the twentieth century showed a promising development at the beginning of the century, when in 1902 the Czech Academy of Science (*Česka Akademie císaře Františka Josefa pro vědy, slovesnost a umění*) decided to take over the recording of the national book output, and in the next year, under the editorship of Z. V. Tobolka, published *Česká bibliografie*,¹⁸ starting the coverage with the year 1902. As stated in the preface, the bibliography "aims at completeness" for the Czech lands. Although the original idea was to publish it annually, for the previous year, the volumes appeared irregularly, often delayed as much as two or three years. It ceased publication with the year 1911, the volume for which was published in 1914.

A second tool for this period, as well as for the last decade of the nineteenth century, is J. Schmidt's *Příruční seznam české literatury*,¹⁹ a catalog of books from approximately 1880 to 1916, in classified arrangement. It was published in 1917 by the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers. Its disadvantage is that it lacks an author index.

In March of 1919 there was established the Bibliographical Institute of Prague University, whose task it became to record all Czechoslovak publications. The Institute first brought out in 1923, under the editorship of L. K. Živný, the *Bibliografický Katalog ČSR*.²⁰ This weekly classified listing was based on the obligatory copies received by the Bohemian libraries. In 1924 an alphabetical index of authors was added and, from 1926 on, a subject index. Up to 1935 it is not entirely comprehensive, because there was

¹⁸ Czech bibliography.

¹⁹ A handy index of Czech literature.

²⁰ Bibliographical catalog of the Czechoslovak Republic.

until then no national law for obligatory copies.

The gap between 1916, the last year covered by Schmidt's *Příruční seznam* . . . , and 1923, the first year of the *Bibliografický Katalog*, was filled later by a two volume work of Karel Nosovský and Vilém Pražák entitled *Soupis československé literatury za léta 1901 až 1925*.²¹ Volume one, which covers the letters A to L, was published in 1931; volume two, with the rest of the alphabet, was published in 1933. The work contains over 75,000 items and is arranged according to decimal classification. Another aid for this period, as well as for the following two decades, is the Prague Public Library's catalog of acquisitions in the field of literature entitled *Seznam belletrie (od r. 1912 do 1924)*²² published in 1924, and its supplements, the *Seznam české belletrie původní i přeložené (Básně, krásná prosa a literatura dramatická)*,²³ published in 1929, 1932, and 1935, covering the period 1925 to 1934. These works were issued as a part of the collection *Spisy knihovny hlavního města Prahy*,²⁴ numbers 1, 2, 11, and 18. In 1948 a continuation was published under the title *Knižný Novinky 1935-1947*.²⁵ In contrast to its predecessor, which is limited to literature, the later work includes nineteen different fields and, according to the preface, records "the large majority of the Czech book output of the past 13 years." It does not include periodicals, school textbooks, annual reports, or children's books. It is arranged in alphabetical order by author and has a subject index.

In 1925 the Bibliographical Institute at the Prague University Library merged with the *Narodní knihovna*, which continued to publish the above-mentioned *Bibliografický Katalog* in its original

form (weekly) until 1929. From 1930 to 1932 it became an annual publication, but it returned to a weekly with cumulations and general index in 1933. It is published except for a few minor changes in this form to date. From 1942 to 1945, during the German occupation of Bohemia, it was entitled *Bibliographischer Katalog: Bibliografický Katalog; verzeichnis des im Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren erschienenen Schrifttums*.²⁶ Afterwards it resumed its original title.

The *Bibliografický Katalog ČSR* includes several parallel series, such as *České knihy*,²⁷ *Slovenské knihy*,²⁸ *České hudebniny*,²⁹ *Slovenské hudobniny*,³⁰ *Články v českých časopisech*,³¹ and *Články v slovenských časopisoch*.³² The *České knihy* and the *Slovenské knihy*, which record the national book production, give full bibliographical description of individual items listed, as well as a brief annotation. The arrangement is classified. They have cumulative author, title, and subject indexes as well as an index of translations.

The Slovak national bibliography on the whole has a much less complicated history than the Czech. The equivalent to Jungmann in Slovak is the work of L. V. Rizner, *Bibliografia písomníctva slovenského na spôsob slovníka od najstarších čias do konca r. 1900*,³³ covering all Slovak publications from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century. It was published in Turčianský Sv. Martin by Matica Slovenská from 1929 to 1934 in six volumes. This lifetime work of L. V. Rizner is arranged alphabetically by author, with books and articles in chronological order under each author. A particular feature is that it

²⁶ Bibliographical catalog; list of literature published in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

²⁷ Czech books.

²⁸ Slovak books.

²⁹ Czech music.

³⁰ Slovak music.

³¹ Articles in Czech periodicals.

³² Articles in Slovak periodicals.

³³ Bibliography of Slovak publications from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century in dictionary arrangement.

²¹ Index of Czech literature from 1901 to 1925.

²² Index of belles-lettres (from 1912 to 1924).

²³ Index of Czech original and translated belles-lettres.

²⁴ Writings of Prague Library.

²⁵ Book news, 1935-1947.

lists in many cases bibliographical works about the writer, after listing all his works. A supplement is J. Mišianik's *Bibliografie slovenského písomníctva do konca XIX stor.*—*Doplňky k Riznerovi*,³⁴ published in Bratislava by the Slovak Academy of Science in 1946. These two works, plus the Czech tools which include Slovak output such as Tobolka's *Knihopis českých a slovenských tisku . . .*, Doucha's *Knihopisný slovník . . .*, *Slovenský Katalog*, *Český katalog bibliografický*, and the Austrian national bibliography, cover the Slovak book output to the end of the nineteenth century.

In the twentieth century the Slovak national book output began to be recorded, beginning with 1923, in *Bibliografický Katalog ČSR*. In 1939, due to the German occupation of Bohemia, the Slovak part was dropped, and there was no listing of Slovak output for six years. After the war, in 1945, the *Bibliografický Katalog* resumed the Slovak recording and continues it to the present.

Thus, there were two gaps in the Slovak national bibliography of the twentieth century. The first one was from 1903, the last year of *Český katalog bibliografický*, to 1923, the first year of *Bibliograf-*

³⁴ Bibliography of Slovak publications to the end of the nineteenth century.—Supplements to Rizner.

ický Katalog ČSR. This gap was filled by the previously mentioned work of K. Novoský and V. Pražak, *Soupis Československé literatury za léta 1901-1925*,³⁵ published in three volumes from 1931 to 1938. A helpful bibliography for this period also is the work of A. Zellinger, *Pantheon Tyrnaviense bibliographicam continens recensionem operum typis tyrnaviensibus 1578-1930*,³⁶ published in Trnava in 1931. As the title implies, it covers everything published in Trnava from 1578 to 1930. Arrangement is chronological by date of publication. The second gap, 1939-45, was filled by two works of A. Dubay. The years 1939 to 1941 are covered in his work entitled *Bibliografický katalog slovenskej knižnej tvorby za roky 1939-41*,³⁷ published in 1948. The next four years he covered in his *Bibliografia slovenskej knižnej tvorby za roky 1942-45*,³⁸ published in 1953. Both works were published by the Bibliographical Institute at the Slavonic University Library in Bratislava. The arrangement in both is alphabetical by author, with various indexes.

³⁵ Index of Czechoslovak literature from 1901 to 1925.

³⁶ A census of prints published in Trnava, 1578-1930.

³⁷ A bibliographical catalog of the Slovak book production for the years 1939-41.

³⁸ A bibliography of the Slovak book production for the years 1942-45.

Graduation Gift from Earlham Library

A service to graduating seniors which may be unique among college libraries has been instituted by Earlham College Library, Richmond, Indiana. A bibliography, *Reference Books for a Personal Library*, listing some forty books in various fields, is given to each graduate. He is also given a permanent library card entitling him to full use of the Earlham College Library. The card advises him to use his local public library first and

then the Earlham Library for needs not filled locally.

The bibliography was compiled by Ellen Stanley, assistant librarian of the Earlham College Library and herself an alumna of Earlham.

Copies of the first bibliography are also being mailed to all alumni. An accompanying memorandum from the librarian announces the availability of permanent library cards for the asking.